

Gerald Pierce Fitzgerald, 86

Duxbury resident Gerald Pierce Fitzgerald, 86, a poet and former university professor at Boston University, died Oct. 25 at South Shore Hospital, Weymouth, after a brief illness.

Mr. Fitzgerald taught English and Italian literature, creative writing and film studies and had been a recipient of the university's Metcalf Award for Excellence in teaching. Twice chairman of the College of Liberal Arts English department and once of the modern foreign languages department, he retired in 1996 after more than 30 years at BU.

His poems were published in a number of journals and magazines as well as in several volumes, most recently "Daughters of Earth, Sons of Heaven."

Born in Boston, he was the son of the late Pierce J. and Eleanor (Burrell) Fitzgerald. He graduated from Weymouth High School and was a member of the Harvard College class of 1952. Upon graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army during the last year of the Korean War, serving for three years.

After discharge he returned to Harvard for graduate studies, earning a masters degree and PH.D in comparative literature and was a teaching fellow there.

He moved to Duxbury with his wife and children in 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Vera "Vicki" (Blass) Fitzgerald; a son, Gerald Blass Fitzgerald of San Diego, CA; a daughter, Anna Lucy Fitzgerald of Somerville; and two grandchildren, as well as three sisters: Susan Tirrell of Plymouth, Sally Murphy of Hanover and Beth Fitzgerald of Portland, ME and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on a date to be announced.